

Those who knew him best say he always had a special place in his heart for his country, and they knew that he would make a great Marine, fighting for liberty and defending freedom. Joining the Marine Corps in 2009, Lance Corporal Penny was a machine gunner assigned to the 1st Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He deployed to Afghanistan in March. Last month he was honored with a promotion to lance corporal.

Lance Corporal Richard Penny made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. He is a true American hero. I ask my colleagues to keep his family and friends in their thoughts and prayers during these very difficult times, and I humbly offer my appreciation and gratitude to this Marine for his selfless service to the security and well-being of all Americans.

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SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

WE BROKE IT . . . DO WE KNOW HOW TO OWN IT?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, the United States' troops will be on the front lines of the surge in Kandahar, and they are just now deploying, and they are learning the lay of the land. But, ironically, the cloud of smoke over Iceland is delaying many arrivals, according to an article in The Washington Post last week, an inauspicious beginning of the most important battle of this war.

The task at hand in Kandahar, however, is less intensive militarily. Frank Ruggiero, our top civilian official in Afghanistan, has said that "Kandahar is a political problem. And the campaign in Kandahar will be led by governance." While it's a comfort to know our troops may not face the gravest possible danger, Mr. Ruggiero's assessment is very troubling because political and governance problems are exactly the ones that this mission has failed miserably.

This campaign is called Operation Enduring Freedom, but the only way we can help the Afghan people enjoy enduring freedom is if we help them build durable, sustainable, democratic governing institutions that will thrive long after our military occupation is over. By neglecting that critical task, Mr. Speaker, we are creating a power vacuum that the Taliban and other warlords and strongmen are only too eager to fill.

If the Taliban has proved resilient in Marja, and they definitely have after we supposedly drove them out a few months ago, then just imagine how hard it will be to vanquish them completely from Kandahar, their spiritual home.

We have proven our military muscle. We have shown that we can invade and conquer. But, Mr. Speaker, that can't be the end game. What are we leaving behind that will actually allow Afghanistan to thrive and its people to prosper? To paraphrase the old Pottery Barn rule from the run-up to the Iraq war, we're good at breaking it, we just don't know what to do once we own it. Or to use the vocabulary of counterinsurgency doctrine, we know how to clear; it's the holding, and especially the building, that we are botching.

Things don't look promising, Mr. Speaker. Even General McChrystal conceded last week that we're not currently winning the war. Gilles Dorronsoro, an expert at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, is even more frank. He says, "Nothing is working. All the information is that the military campaign against the Taliban in Kandahar is not working and it's not going to work."

What I believe, Mr. Speaker, will work is the one thing we haven't tried in the last 8½ years, ending this war once and for all. Of course we won't abandon Afghanistan, far from it. In fact, to address the enormous governance challenges we ought to launch a new kind of surge, a civilian surge. That would mean devoting the energy and the investment to development—democracy-building and other humanitarian efforts—that we have invested in the war, because our continued military presence cannot solve Afghanistan's problems. It can only exacerbate them.

It's time, it's time, it's time to bring our troops home.

PRESIDENT CALDERON'S RANT ON AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Mexican President Felipe Calderon spoke to this House Chamber this last week as our guest, but I heard about it nonstop when I went back home to my district in Texas. My office has received hundreds of calls, almost as many as those during the health care debate. To say my constituents were not happy with Calderon's speech would be an understatement.

When I went out to get gas, go to a restaurant, or even wash my car, I got an animated earful from my neighbors. People in southeast Texas thought he was disrespectful and ungrateful to America. My friend Sammy Mahan, who owns a wrecker service, said a lot of things, some of which I cannot repeat, but he did say, "Calderon lives in

a lawless country and doesn't want the United States to enforce our laws either. It was like we invited a guest over for supper, he brought along all of his friends and his family, complained about the food, griped about our neighborhood, then drove off in our pickup truck."

Calderon spoke in Spanish directly to the Mexican nationals in America illegally, encouraging them to keep breaking our laws so they can send money back to Mexico. Remittances from the United States are Mexico's second largest source of foreign funds. Calderon told the illegals in Spanish right here in the people's House right up here from this podium, "I want to tell the migrant, to whom they are working here by the greatness of this country, that we admire them, that we miss them, that we are fighting for their rights, and that we are working hard for Mexico and their families." He came across as encouraging defiance of American law.

Exactly what rights would he be fighting for in America for the people in the United States illegally from Mexico? Would that be the so-called right to come here illegally, to work here illegally, and then send the money back to Mexico? That right doesn't exist, Mr. President. Would that be the right to illegally come to America then demand citizenship? That right doesn't exist either, Mr. President.

My constituents weren't very happy that the President of Mexico would come here as our guest, then arrogantly lecture the American people on what American laws he likes and which ones he doesn't like, then have the unmitigated nerve to blame Mexico's problems on America.

Calderon said he doesn't like our right to keep and bear arms. Perhaps if Mexico honored the second amendment philosophy of the right to defend themselves, the people of Mexico wouldn't be held hostage by the drug cartels. He blamed America for the violence in Mexico. He blamed America for illegal guns going south and illegal immigration and drugs going north. Well, I have a solution for him: Americans should just seal the border frontier. We will put the National Guard troops on the border to light up the criminal cartels. We have been protecting the borders of other nations like Iraq and Afghanistan and other places around the world. Our troops have been taking out the narcoterrorists worldwide. It's time we took care of business here at home because the Federal Government has been AWOL at the border.

And the people, the everyday Mexican people, are wonderful and hard-working people who love their own country, but their country is corrupt and cannot take care of them or provide them safety or jobs or an education. So the people flee to the United States. Their own country has failed the people of Mexico.

The people in Mexico are paying in blood and treasure for the lawlessness